The embodiments of the invention in which an exclusive property or privilege is claimed are defined as follows:

1.   A method for creating a task library on a computer, comprising:

obtaining task data for a plurality of components installed on the computer;

generating task links referencing the task data for the plurality of components according to a predetermined schema; and

storing the task data and the task links as the task library.

2.   The method of Claim 1, wherein the plurality of components installed on the computer comprises at least one hardware component.

3.   The method of Claim 1, wherein the plurality of components installed on the computer comprises at least one software component.

4.   The method of Claim 3, wherein the plurality of components installed on the computer comprises operating system components.

5.   The method of Claim 1, wherein the plurality of components installed on the computer comprises at least one hardware component and at least one software component.

6.   The method of Claim 1, wherein the plurality of components installed on the computer comprises at least one remote component.

7.   The method of Claim 1, wherein the plurality of components installed on the computer are from a plurality of component providers.

8.   The method of Claim 1, wherein the predetermined schema organizes the task links referencing the task data according to predetermined topics.

9.   The method of Claim 1, wherein the predetermined schema organizes the task links referencing the task data according to an alphabetic ordering of the subject matter of the task data.

10. The method of Claim 1, wherein the task data comprises reference information to assist a user in regard to the corresponding component.

11. The method of Claim 10, wherein the task data further comprises a plurality of tasks, and wherein each task corresponds to a particular topic relating to its corresponding component.

12. The method of Claim 11, wherein a task of the task data is configured such that the corresponding component may be manipulated from within the task library.

13. A task library accessible to a computer, comprising:

task data for a plurality of components installed on the computer; and

task links referencing the task data generated according to a predefined schema.

14. The task library of Claim 13, wherein the plurality of components installed on the computer comprises at least one hardware component.

15. The task library of Claim 13, wherein the plurality of components installed on the computer comprises at least one software component.

16. The task library of Claim 15, wherein the plurality of components installed on the computer comprises operating system components.

17. The task library of Claim 13, wherein the plurality of components installed on the computer comprises at least one hardware component and at least one software component.

18. The task library of Claim 13, wherein the plurality of components installed on the computer comprises at least one remote component.

19. The task library of Claim 13, wherein the plurality of components installed on the computer are from a plurality of component providers.

20. The task library of Claim 13, wherein the predefined schema organizes the task links referencing the task data according to predefined topics.

21. The task library of Claim 13, wherein the predefined schema organizes the task links referencing the task data according to an alphabetic ordering of the subject matter of the task data.

22. The task library of Claim 13, wherein the task data comprises reference information to assist a user in regard to the plurality of components installed on the computer.

23. The task library of Claim 22, wherein the task data further comprises a plurality of tasks, wherein each task corresponds to a particular topic relating to one of the plurality of components installed on the computer.

24. The task library of Claim 23, wherein the task data comprises at least one task configured such that aspects of a corresponding component installed on the computer may be manipulated from within the task library.

25. A computer system comprising:

a processor;

a memory storing a task library, the task library comprising:

task data for a plurality of components installed on the computer system; and

task links referencing the task data generated according to a defined schema.

26. The computer system of Claim 25, wherein the plurality of components installed on the computer system comprises at least one hardware component.

27. The computer system of Claim 25, wherein the plurality of components installed on the computer system comprises at least one software component.

28. The computer system of Claim 27, wherein the plurality of components installed on the computer system comprises operating system components.

29.   The computer system of Claim 25, wherein the plurality of components installed on the computer system comprises at least one hardware component and at least one software component.

30.   The computer system of Claim 25, wherein the plurality of components installed on the computer system comprises at least one remote component.

31.   The computer system of Claim 25, wherein the plurality of components installed on the computer system are from a plurality of component providers.

32.   The computer system of Claim 25, wherein the predefined schema organizes the task links referencing the task data according to predefined topics.

33.   The computer system of Claim 25, wherein the predefined schema organizes the task links referencing the task data according to an alphabetic ordering of the subject matter of the task data.

34.   The computer system of Claim 25, wherein the task data for the plurality of components installed on the computer system comprises reference information to assist a user in regard to the plurality of components.

35.   The computer system of Claim 34, wherein the task data further comprises a plurality of tasks, wherein each task corresponds to a particular topic relating to one of the plurality of components installed on the computer system.

36.   The computer system of Claim 35, wherein the task data comprises a task configured such that aspects of a corresponding component installed on the computer may be manipulated from within the task library.

37.   An integrated help system on a computer, comprising:

help information from a plurality of components installed on a computer system;

a help system library for storing the help information from the plurality of components; and

links referencing the help information from the plurality of components, wherein the links are stored with the help system library.

38.   The integrated computer help system of Claim 37, wherein the plurality of components installed on the computer system comprises a hardware component.

39.   The integrated computer help system of Claim 37, wherein the plurality of components installed on the computer system comprises a software component.

40.   The integrated computer help system of Claim 37, wherein the plurality of components installed on the computer system comprises operating system components.

41.   The integrated computer help system of Claim 37, wherein the plurality of components installed on the computer system comprises a hardware component and a software component.

42.   The integrated computer help system of Claim 37, wherein the plurality of components installed on the computer system comprises a remote component.

43.   The integrated computer help system of Claim 37, wherein the plurality of components installed on the computer system are from a plurality of component providers.

44.   The integrated computer help system of Claim 37, wherein the predefined schema organizes the links referencing the help information according to predefined topics.

45.   The integrated computer help system of Claim 37, wherein the predefined schema organizes the links referencing the help information according to an alphabetic ordering of the subject matter of the help information.

46.   The integrated computer help system of Claim 37, wherein the help information comprises reference data to assist a user in regard to a corresponding component.

47.   The integrated computer help system of Claim 37, wherein the help information comprises a plurality of reference elements, and wherein each reference element

corresponds to a particular topic relating to one of the plurality of corresponding components installed on the computer system.

48.   The integrated computer help system of Claim 47, wherein a reference element is configured such that aspects of the corresponding component may be manipulated from within the help system library.

49.   A method for executing a task on a computer without changing component context from the current component, the method comprising:

retrieving a plurality of tasks from a task library, the task library comprising a plurality of tasks from a plurality of components installed on the computer;

displaying the retrieved tasks to a user;

detecting the user's selection of a displayed task; and

executing an action associated with the selected task without changing the apparent context from the current component.

50.   The method of Claim 49, wherein the tasks in the task library comprise tasks from at least one software component.

51.   The method of Claim 49, wherein the tasks in the task library comprise tasks from at least one hardware component.

52.   The method of Claim 49, wherein the tasks in the task library comprise tasks from at least one software component and at least one hardware component.

53.   The method of Claim 49, wherein the tasks in the task library comprise tasks from operating system components.

54.   The method of Claim 49, wherein the tasks in the task library are organized according to a predefined schema.

55.   The method of Claim 49, wherein retrieving a plurality of tasks from the task library further comprises retrieving the plurality of tasks from the task library according to the current component's context.

56.   The method of Claim 49, wherein the retrieved tasks are displayed to a user according to a determined relevancy of the tasks.

57.   The method of Claim 56, wherein the retrieved tasks are displayed to a user according to a determined relevancy of the tasks, such that more relevant tasks are displayed more prominently to the user.

58.   The method of Claim 56, wherein the determined relevancy of the tasks is determined according to the frequency with which the user has previously selected each task.

59.   The method of Claim 56, wherein the determined relevancy of the tasks is determined according to the frequency with which a plurality of users have previously selected each task.

60.   The method of Claim 56, where determined relevancy of the tasks is determined according to computer state information.

61.   A computer-readable medium bearing computer-readable instructions which, when executed, carry out the method comprising:
    obtaining task data for a plurality of components installed on a computer;
    storing the task data in a task library;
    generating task links referencing the task data according to a predetermined schema;
and
    storing the task links with the task library.

62.   A computer-readable medium bearing computer-readable instructions which, when executed, carry out the method comprising:

retrieving a plurality of tasks from a task library, the task library comprising a plurality of tasks from a plurality of components installed on the computer;

displaying the retrieved tasks to a user;

detecting the user's selection of a displayed task; and

executing an action associated with the selected task without changing the apparent context from the current component.